श्री सभापति: माननीय मंत्री महोदय, जवाब जरा छोटा दें।

श्री राम विलास पासवान: सर क्वेश्चन इतना लंबा है। ये पूछ रहे थे पॉलिसी के बारे में।

श्री सभापति: इसके लिए डिटेल्स में जाने की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री राम विलास पासवान: हमारे लिए अच्छी बात है। हम दो लाइन में जवाब दे देंगे।

श्री सभापति: माननीय संसद सदस्य इतने होशियार हैं कि आप संकेत करेंगे तो उसी में वह समझ जाएंगे।

श्री राम विलास पासवान: आप हमको धन्यवाद दीजिए कि हम कितना होमवर्क करके आते हैं।

श्री सभापति: इतना होमवर्क करने के बाद भी मेंबर सैटिस्फाइड नहीं हैं।

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He is satisfied.

SHRI BIMAL JALAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very interesting reply. But the question was about the delay, not about the contents of the policy. Neither in his written answer nor in his reply to the supplementaries, has the Minister come out clearly as to (a) whether in his view there is a delay in removing the anomaly; (b) whether this is due to a lot of bureaucratic red tapism; (c) whether the delay, rather than the policy itself, is affecting the fortunes of FACT and other public sector companies; and (d) what is being done to remove the delay. Can the hon. Minister answer the question of delay rather than going into the contents of the policy?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I will go into these aspects and respond to the queries of the hon. Member.

*43. [*The questioner* (SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BALAPTE) *was absent. For answer vide page* 32].

Projects pending for environment clearance

*44. SHRI T.T.V.DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, State-wise;

(b) the reason for undue delay in clearing the projects; and

(c) whether Government would set up a time-frame for clearing the projects submitted by the States?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Details of projects pending for Environmental Clearance State-wise and period of pendency are furnished in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) Under the EIA Notification, 1994, as amended from time to time, environmental appraisal is required to be completed for grant of environmental clearance or otherwise, within the mandated period of 120 days after receipt of complete information. A final decision regarding grant of Environmental Clearance would be communicated within 120 days of receipt of complete information.

Statement-I

State-wise details of projects pending for Environmental clearance and period of pendency.

As on 30.11.04 total 320 projects are pending in all sectors for environmental clearance. Out of total projects pending, 130 are Industries, 111 are Mining, 4 are Thermal Power, 7 are River Valley and 66 are Infrastructure and Miscellaneous and 2 are new construction and industrial estates projects. The details are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Sector	No. of projects
1.	Industry	130
2.	Mining	111
3.	River valley	7
4.	Thermal Power	4
5.	Infrastructure and Miscellaneous	66
6.	Nuclear Power Projects	0
7.	New construction & Industrial Estate	2
	TOTAL:	320

Time period in respect of pending projects is indicated below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Sector	No. of projects Pending less than 120 days	No. of Projects Pending less than 120 days
1	2	3	4
1.	Industry	130	0
2.	Mining	111	0
3.	River Valley	7	0
4.	Thermal Power	4	0
5.	Infrastructure and Miscellaneous	66	0
6.	Nuclear Power Projects	0	0
7.	New construction & Industrial Estate	2	0
	TOTAL :	320	0

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Sir, in Tamil Nadu, 15 projects under the Forest Conservation Act, 25 projects seeking financial assistance and two very vital road development projects including the road connectivity between Kodaikanal and Periyakulam *via* Adukkam have been pending for environmental clearance. These projects are very vital for the development of the State. Will the hon. Minister explain the reasons for not clearing this project so far?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, the forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act does not come within the purview of environmental clearance since environmental clearances are given by way of an environmental impact assessment as contemplated in the Environment Protection Act. So, the clearance of forests and the clearance of environment are two distincts things. Of course, if any specific project is pending for forest clearance under the Forest Conservation Act, and if the hon. Member mentions it, I can look at it. But this question is with regard to environmental clearance.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Nearly 40 projects pertaining to Tamil Nadu are pending with the Centre for environmental clearance. Some of these projects like providing water facilities to wildlife and development of Arinyar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, cannot wait for a long period. In view of the urgency, will the hon. Minister give an assurance as to when these 40 projects as well as the road development projects would be cleared?

SHRI A. RAJA: As I have said, the clearance under the Wildlife Act does not come under this. If there is any specific project which is pending after the sanction of the State Government, it will be cleared.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, the question is, how to avoid undue delay in environmental clearance. The hon. Minister has said that within 120 days, he will be able to give the clearance. Now, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, out of the 320 projects pending, projects including industry, mining, river valley, infrastructure, etc., are pending with the Government. And, the Minister says that within 120 days, we will be able to give the clearance. Now it is a fact that work on a number of projects including power, irrigation, infrastructure, etc. have not been started because the environmental clearance had not come. This is the statement that we find everywhere. The Minister says the contrary. I would like to know the mechanism that he is following. The limit is of 120 days. He says complete information must come. But I doubt it very much. 'Complete information' is a very difficult thing. Even if there is one query, the department sends it back and says, "It is not complete". In such a case, the limit of 120 days will not help. So I want a clear-cut reply. The Ministry must get in touch with each State and we should have one-to-one meetings frequently and see to it that no industry as well as infrastructure suffers. I want this clarification and also the reply as to how he is planning to do it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, with due respect to the hon. Member, I will be categorical before the House; we are taking only 120 days to clear a project provided the project is in order as prescribed in the procedure, and also provided, when it is placed before the expert committee,..... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: They are sending it back. Queries after queries are being raised. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. RAJA: I will come to you.

Sir, environmental clearances are not being handled exclusively by the Central Government; since it is a Concurrent Subject in the Constitution, we have to rely upon the State Governments and the State Pollution Control Boards also for each and every thing. A State Pollution Control Board can avail of 90 days for public hearing and scrutinisation. Thereafter, it is submitted to the Ministry. The Ministry takes 120 days. Along with the opinion of the Minister, it is placed before the expert Committee. Neither the Pollution

Control Boards nor the expert Committee is inclined to take up a matter if it is not in order. If an application is not in order, it is referred back to the State Pollution Control Board and the project proponent is called to explain the deficiencies. All this period is excluded. But I must be categorical before the House and say that we are availing of 120 days; for more than 120 days, no file is kept pending with us.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, my question to the hon. Minister is that environment is inextricably integrated with human factor. So, while giving environmental clearance, are you considering the human factor also? Are you considering the displacement factor, which is a dreaded problem for the entire country today? Are you considering the displacement factor as the key factor while giving environmental clearances to industry, to mining projects, to river valley development or other development works? Are you giving priority to that or not?

SHRI A. RAJA: Certainly, all factors involving environmental clearances, including the displacement of people living in the area of project, are taken into consideration. In such cases, project proponents are directed by way of a stipulation by the committee and the Ministry to have one or two per cent of the entire cost provided for the people who are going to be displaced.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Minister's enthusiasm is very reassuring. But it is a fact that there are delays in environmental clearances at the State level, at the Central level and the foreign investors who are coming here to set up joint ventures, or to invest in this country, are dissuaded; and there are many instances where they have chosen eventually to withdraw.

So, will the hon. Minister consider some process to expedite it and to see to it that a procedure is put in place for better coordination between his Ministry and the State Pollution Control Boards and a periodic review taken by the Central Government, by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, along with the concerned State Boards where the projects have not been cleared or where the Ministry has sent them back?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, honestly, I must admit that there are some procedural delays on the part of the Central Government and the State Pollution Control Boards while taking action so far as applicants' data and other things are concerned.

Sir, a Committee headed by Shri Govindarajan was set up by the Ministry. The committee said that when a project proponent filed an application for clearance, the project might need both the forest clearance as well as the environmental clearance. Sometimes, in the past, we gave the environmental clearance and then the project proponent had to move another application for forest clearance. So, now what we are trying to do is to see to it that there is a single-window clearance. Whenever a project proponent files an application, both the forest clearance and the environmental clearance are given together so as to avoid such a delay. Apart from that, small, small projects, small-scale industries and, to some extent, thermal power projects are totally exempted from the purview of the Environment (Protection) Act. Still, we are having an open mind to have a reengineering process where the State Governments can be delegated with more powers to avoid such a delay.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Sir, it is, certainly, desirable that there should be expeditious clearance of these projects, but I would like the Minister to assure us that in the effort to expedite the clearance, there would not be a dilution of the environmental laws because the environment is something which we are protecting for coming generations. So, if we in a great hurry pass a lot of projects and 20 years down the line the environment is destroyed, that also has to be kept in mind. So, certainly, there should be no duplication. But, there should also be no erosion of the environmental laws passed by this Parliament.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I can assure the hon. House that in order to avoid delays depreciation will not be given to the law.

श्री संजय निरुपम: सभापति जी, वर्ष 1997 में सीआरजेड आया और सीआरजेड आने के बाद मुम्बई में जो विकास की गति थी, बहुत धीमी हो गई। यहां पर यह सवाल था कि राज्य-वार एक विवरण दिया जाए कि एनवायरनमेंटल क्लीयरेन्स के लिए कहां-कहां कितने केस पेंडिंग हैं? मुझे मुम्बई के बारे में जानना है कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के पास सीआरजेड में कितने केस पेंडिंग हैं और सीआरजेड-टू में कितने केस पेंडिंग हैं? दूसरी बात यह कि मुम्बई में केन्द्र सरकार 60,000 नए घर बनाना चाहती थी, लेकिन पूरा का पूरा प्रोजेक्ट एनवायरनमेंटल क्लीयरेन्स की वजह से रुका पड़ा है, उसकी क्या स्थिति है? तीसरी बात यह कि क्या सीआरजेड-टू एबोलिश करने के बारे में सरकार प्रतिबद्ध है, कमिटेड है?

श्री सभापति: मंत्री जी, आप जवाब दे सकते हो तो दें।

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, details of the pending projects of Maharashtra, including Mumbai are given in Statement-I of my reply. However, so far as the CRZ is concerned, there is no doubt that there is a hue and cry that there should be a reclassification of CRZ-I, CRZ-II and CRZ-III which may curb developmental activities in the sea-shore areas throughout the country. So, we set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Swaminathan to have a total re-look at the CRZ without depreciation of the law. As soon as the report comes to us, it can be discussed with the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 45, Shrimati Perma Cariappa. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, the Madras High Court judge yesterday has made an observation that the environment problem should not be a hurdle in the larger interest of the society. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the law would take care of that in future. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. The next question has been taken. Please take your seat.

Reforms in FPI sector of Karnataka

*45. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate reforms in the food processing sector in various State, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the incentives being provided/proposed to be provided to the food processing industries in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A number of measures have been initiated by the Govenment of India from time to item for promotion of food processing industries in the country. Such measures include exemption from payment of excise duty to fruit and vegetable processing units, exemption of most of the